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ACCELA
Government Software

focus

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Project Status Report

The project activities have reached 41%. We are now pushing into the second half of the project phases. The project still is on track to achieve all targets. This is one of the most intensive points of the project. The record builds, workflows, and fee tables must be created for all Accela and Lincoln lead record development efforts by April 23. Also in April, an effort to begin writing all of the functional scripts will begin. After we have more working knowledge of the Event Manager/Script Building, we are planning on having Accela's Matt Hart return to Lincoln to work with us to keep our programming efforts moving forward and to help us overcome issues in record building and script writing as they come up. Currently, we are making plans to have Matt's return trip in May to facilitate development efforts in a workshop environment utilizing the Accela Analysis Center. At that time, we also will be knee deep in conversion mapping for the first pass to convert all of the Permits Plus historical data. In addition, as we roll into May and June, a considerable effort will be launched to build reports. Although challenging, April, May, and June activities comprise the core components of Lincoln's system build. It is critical to our project schedule and overall success to make all of these target dates. The next few months will go by in a blink; but our eye must be kept on the end result with the User Acceptance Testing activities. A review of the functions and features of Accela Automation release 7.2 has been completed. There are no changes in version 7.2 that will impact our project activities and/or schedule. It has been decided that upgrading to 7.2 will be accomplished after the core configuration activities have been completed. This will bring the system to a current version level at the time of go-live. Staying on current versions is an issue typical for projects that have a duration of a year or more. Starting our production cycle on the current release is - priceless!

Sub-Projects Update

Scanning - Accela has shared some exciting news! The Product Development Team at Accela has determined how to enhance the base product to include a scanning component. We don't have all of the details; however, it is our understanding that there will be a scan button, similar to an attachment button that will be used to grab scanned images at the "point-of-record". Accela is working hard to incorporate this enhancement into release 7.3 and we hope to get an Alpha version of this functionality by the first quarter of next year. Thank you Accela for developing this enhancement!

Credit Cards - Lana Tolbert, Justin Meyer, and I met to formally initiate a credit card project for the DSC. A project definition/scope document will be prepared to get all those involved on the same page before proceeding with any implementation activities. We will share this document with Accela to place in their project "how-to" library. Initially, we have targeted this project to be completed by June 1. This is a very important objective to complete. We have a "why wait" attitude believing there is no reason to wait for the Accela Automation implementation. Let's get it done now!

Crystal Reports Enterprise - Bob Loos has completed the installation in a virtual environment and is now performing tests on the Crystal environment. He has one additional step to complete to connect Accela and Crystal together. The first reports that will land in the enterprise environment are the Accela standard reports (sent zipped) and a database report that will be run regularly by department during the systems configuration effort.

OnBase EDMS - Progress is being made in determining whether OnBase could serve as the Enterprise EDMS for the city. A previous newsletter made mention of an ROI study. A ROI analysis tool has been constructed and is now available to help us evaluate whether Lincoln will get a substantial return on investment with an enterprise EDMS solution. As this project is taking shape, research is being completed to identify the type of Accela documents which will need to be included as well as business rules, such as "should documents be deleted through Accela or only from within OnBase ?". We will be scheduling some additional meetings next week to provide the documentation needed for eDocument Resources to "spec" a working environment for the City and for document conversion purposes.

Project Dox - Avolve Software's Frank Coronado, Wally Taylor and I held a conference call to discuss net change data sheets and planning for the Project Dox upgrade to version 8.0 in the 32 bit environment. Avolve will send out a document and high level plan next week. We will then schedule a conference call with key project Subject Matter Experts to validate the plan and participate in charting a course of action to implement the new functions and features of the software. Fred Hoke, Building and Safety Director, will be working with key personnel on plans to fully utilize Project Dox. We are anxiously waiting to receive the details about the new functions in Project Dox 8.0 from Avolve Software. Tentatively, the upgrade will occur in May.

Overwhelming Success Framework - You all remember our OSF contest, participation and prizes (Misty's). What this has led to has been a series of ongoing meetings with staff to develop a framework which will be used to ensure project and ongoing success for the DSC. The internal meetings have yielded a repository of awesome action plan items that we would like to begin to share in the future. For now, the final framework has been accepted by our Building and Safety Director and is currently being reviewed by the Mayor's Office. A meeting with those in the Mayor's Office is in the planning stages. We hope to have this meeting within the next week.

Financial System Interface - Conference calls with Accela and City Finance staff have been productive in initiating dialog to explore the possibility of creating an interface from Accela to JD Edwards/Oracle World Software. The City has provided a data record layout for Accela to map data for the interface. The data would be required to jump hardware platforms; however, this is not uncommon practice. Currently, PermitsPlus data is manually entered from a report produced from PermitsPlus. Should Finance proceed with an interface, an interface file will most likely be FTP'd to a specific location on the World Software machine. This interface could potentially create some time savings and perhaps tighten the reconciliation that is done between the two environments.

GIS - Accela's Paul Rose, Rocky Copeland and Lincoln's Jeff McReynolds have connected to begin the design work of the Geographical Information System. There is a broad array of work which needs to be completed in the identification of application-specific fields, mapping services and GIS layers. The work in the GIS environment also includes connecting with an external address, parcel, and owner data layer. Accela's general term for this is XAPO. This sub-project has officially started and we believe that within two weeks we will begin to have some of the expanded Lincoln information available within the Accela Automation environment.

Contractor License Renewal - This project will pick up momentum after the configuration steps are completed. Mostly, this renewal process will become functional due to the large number of Event Manager/Scripting that will be written in the background of certain record types.

Question of the Week Drawing

Named Drawing Winner: Michaela Dugan shown here completely outfitted with an Accela branded notebook and pen, and water bottle. Michaela has all along been a strong participant in the question of the week and has become an OSF team member. Michaela continually interacts with us providing interesting articles, books, and other documentation. Thank you Michaela for being such a wonderful participant in making a difference for the City!



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Our Accela project newsletter now reaches 254 people!